

**Summary of Comments Received During the Public Comment Period
May 13, 2015 – June 26, 2015
Regarding the Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Water Quality Control,
Chapter 391-3-6, pertaining to Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards**

1) Comment: General support of the rule change and transparency of the process used.

Response: Comment noted.

2) Comment: Several commenters supported the designation of the Headwaters of the Conasauga River in the Cohutta Wilderness Area as Georgia's first ONRW.

Response: Comment noted.

3) Comment: Support of the Recreational Bacterial Criteria; however, would like the new criteria to apply to all fresh water, not just waters with a recreational designation.

Response: EPA's recommended Recreational Bacterial Criteria does not have seasonal or use intensity values, nor does it address secondary contact recreational uses. EPD's Fishing designation is defined as waters used for the propagation of fish, shellfish, game and other aquatic life and supports secondary contact recreation in and on the waters. Secondary contact recreation is incidental contact with the water, including wading and occasional swimming. EPD's Drinking Water designation is for waters approved as public drinking water supplies and these waters also support the Fishing use. EPD's Bacterial Criteria for Fishing and Drinking Water currently have seasonal limits and EPD believes that this seasonal approach should remain. EPD is working with EPA to determine an appropriate Bacterial Criteria for waters with these designations.

4) Comment: Several commenters opposed the removal of the 750 cfs footnote. Other commenters supported this change. Other commenters supported the change provided that EPD state that the removal should not be interpreted as a change in the flow target for the Chattahoochee River at Peachtree Creek.

Response: Over the years the 750 cfs footnote has created confusion with some parties believing that the 750 cfs footnote was a minimum flow water quality standard and some parties believing that the 750 cfs footnote dictated US COE operations at Buford Dam. Neither of those things is accurate and removal of the footnote will eliminate that confusion. Removal of the footnote will make clear that this section of the Chattahoochee River will be treated consistent with all other regulated streams for the purposes of permitting and determination of compliance with water quality standards. Permits will be issued that meet water quality standards in accordance with the Clean Water Act.

5) Comment: Several commenters wanted to designate the Chattahoochee River downstream of Peachtree Creek as Recreational Waters.

Response: Comment noted. This will be considered during the 2016 Triennial Review.